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Oswalds Never Spoke Of Guilt, Lawyer Says

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By MIRIAM OTTENBERG

On November 23, 1963—the day after President Kennedy was assassinated and the day before his suspected assassin was slain—the Oswald brothers saw each other for the last time in a Dallas cellblock.

On that occasion, Lee Harvey Oswald neither admitted nor denied to his older brother, Robert, that he had killed the President. Robert didn't ask him and Lee didn't volunteer a statement. In fact, the question of his innocence or guilt didn't come up.

That was the version of the brothers' final meeting given newsmen yesterday by Robert Oswald's attorney, William A. McKenzie of Dallas.

Mr. McKenzie steadfastly declined to divulge any part of Robert's three days of testimony before the presidential commission investigating the assassination.

Attacks News Story

When Robert finished his testimony late yesterday, however, Mr. McKenzie broke his silence by reading a lengthy statement to newsmen attacking the "irresponsible inaccuracies" in a story about Robert's testimony printed yesterday by the New York Times.

He cited a paragraph of the story relating that Robert visited his brother at a Dallas jail and asked him if he had killed the President. The story reported that Lee denied the assassination and that Robert told the commission he believed the denial.

Mr. McKenzie called that "grossly untrue" and "just false".

"There was no denial by Lee nor was it even mentioned," Mr. McKenzie said as Robert stood by his side. "Lee made no such statement."

At that point in Mr. McKenzie's impromptu press conference, Robert had a whispered conference with his attorney.

Dulles Refutes Reporter

The interruption, however, did not change Mr. McKenzie's account because he went on to say, "Lee did not deny to Robert that he killed the President. It didn't come up."

Former CIA Director Allen Dulles, commission member who presided over most of the questioning of Robert Oswald, denied another element of the Times story.

The Times reported that

Robert told the commission that he thought his brother may have been trained as an agent in the Soviet Union.

"That was not in the testimony," Mr. Dulles said. "I deny that statement was ever made."

Neither Mr. Dulles nor Mr. McKenzie shed much light on why Robert's testimony consumed three full days in the light of the fact that the brothers were separated for much of their young lives.

Mr. Dulles said only that Robert covered his brother's life and his own relationships with Lee, and was "very forthright, very responsive."

Divulged No Information

Mr. McKenzie said Robert, "in his respect for the commission, its work and its integrity, has sought to assist the commission in every way." He emphasized that neither he nor Mr. Oswald had divulged any of the closed door testimony to any member of the press.

"I submit," he said, "that it is reprehensible and completely unfair to the Commission, to the President of the United States and to the people of this nation as a whole to divulge or print any purported testimony given to the commission without commission approval, particularly while the witness is under oath, whereby any group might use such purported testimony to further its own purpose or bias . . ."

"I just say that misleading, careless and inaccurate printing of the news by any responsible news media violates in my mind every principle of a free press."

With the completion of testimony by the three persons closest to Lee Oswald—his widow, his mother and his brother—the commission will meet tomorrow afternoon to consider its next move.

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